

III.—Further Notes on the Birds of the Argentine Republic.

By A. H. HOLLAND. With Remarks by P. L. SCLATER*.

[MR. HOLLAND has now sent home a second collection of nicely-prepared bird-skins from Argentina. It contains about 60 specimens, referable to 46 species, all from the Estancia Espartillar, near Ranchos, on the Southern Railway of Buenos Ayres. I give some of Mr. Holland's interesting field-notes on these birds, and insert a few remarks of my own, to which my initials are appended.

The following is a list of the species of which there are examples in the present collection :—

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| 1. Polioptila dumicola. | 24. Pyrocephalus rubineus. |
| *2. Tachycineta meyeri. | *25. Empidonax bimaculatus. |
| 3. Progne chalybea. | 26. Geositta cunicularia. |
| *4. Procnias tersa. | 27. Cinclodes fuscus. |
| *5. Tanagra bonariensis. | 28. Phlæocryptes melanops. |
| 6. Paroaria cucullata. | 29. Chrysuronia ruficollis. |
| 7. Zonotrichia pileata. | 30. Conurus patagonus. |
| 8. Chrysomitris icterica. | *31. Circus cinereus. |
| 9. Sycalis pelzelni. | *32. Falco peregrinus. |
| 10. — luteola. | 33. Ardea candidissima. |
| 11. Agelæus thilius. | *34. Heteronetta melanocephala. |
| 12. Leistes superciliaris. | 35. Mareca sibilatrix. |
| 13. Amblyramphus holosericeus. | 36. Columbula picui. |
| 14. Pseudoleistes virescens. | 37. Oreophilus ruficollis. |
| *15. Taniptera coronata. | *38. Eudromias modesta. |
| 16. — dominicana. | *39. Ægialitis falklandica. |
| 17. Aletrurus risorius. | *40. Thinocorus rumicivorus. |
| 18. Lichenops perspicillatus. | 41. Gallinago paraguaia. |
| 19. Machetornis rixosa. | *42. Rhynchæa semicollaris. |
| *20. Centrites niger. | *43. Tringa maculata. |
| *21. Serphophaga subcristata. | *44. — fuscicollis. |
| 22. — nigricans. | *45. Rhyacophilus solitarius. |
| 23. Elainea albiceps. | 46. Podiceps rollandi. |

P. L. S.]

2. TACHYGINETA MEYERI.

[*Petrochelidon meyeri*, Bp. Consp. i. p. 48.

Tachycineta meyeri, Sharpe, Cat. Birds, x. p. 116; Sharpe & Wyatt, Monogr. Hirund. pls. ix., x.

To my great surprise, a single skin of a Swallow sent by

* For an account of the first collection see 'Ibis,' 1890, p. 424.

Mr. Holland, labelled "*Common Martin*," turns out to be *T. meyeri* and not *T. leucorrhoa* (Arg. Orn. i. p. 31). All previous specimens of this species with authentic localities that I have met with have been from Chili, Patagonia, or some part of Western South America, and it is curious to find it so far to the eastward.

T. meyeri is closely allied to *T. leucorrhoa*, but at once distinguishable by the glossy blue back, the absence of the white front, and the white terminal edges of the secondaries. It is new to the avifauna of Argentina, and I should be glad to receive more specimens of it, and further information respecting its occurrence in the country.—P. L. S.]

4. PROCNIAS TERSA.

[*Procnias tersa*, Scl. Cat. Birds, xi. p. 50.

This is also quite a new species to the Argentine avifauna. Mr. Holland's collection contains a single example of it, in female plumage. It is labelled "*Green Martin*, ♀, no. 42."

The furthest southern record I am acquainted with for this species, before the receipt of the present specimen, was the province of São Paulo, Brazil (*Joyner*). Cf. Scl. Cat. B. xi. p. 50.—P. L. S.]

5. TANAGRA BONARIENSIS. (Arg. Orn. i. p. 39.)

March 26th. No. 124. Blue-and-Yellow Tanager (*Siete colores*). ♀. Common.

Legs brown; eye hazel; beak brown.

Arrives here in great numbers in MAY, but departs in SEPTEMBER. Many of the males are in immature plumage, which closely resembles that of the hens.

[In 'Argentine Ornithology' Mr. Hudson speaks of this species as "appearing in small flocks in *summer*."—P. L. S.]

15. TÆNIOPTERA CORONATA. (Arg. Orn. i. p. 115.)

April 10th. No. 107. Black-crowned Tyrant. ♂. Rare. Legs black; eye black; beak black.

This was the only specimen seen here. It was found perched on the summit of an acacia tree, from which it took a few short flights after insects, returning to its original branch.

20. CENTRITES NIGER. (Arg. Orn. i. p. 134.)

March 2nd. No. 120. Red-backed Tyrant. ♂. Common.
Legs black; eyes black; beak black.

Arrives here in February, and departs about August.

21. SERPHOPHAGA SUBCRISTATA. (Arg. Orn. i. p. 140.)

April 11th. No. 110. White-crested Tyrant. ♂. Common.
Legs black; eye black; beak black.

This small Tyrant is seen in every small plantation, where it seeks its food like a Flycatcher, darting off a branch to capture insects on the wing; it is commoner than is usually supposed, as it is easily overlooked on account of its colour and retiring disposition. These birds seem to pair for life, and are never seen in flocks, nor do they appear to migrate. The cup-shaped nest is placed in the fork of a shrub, or suspended in fir trees at no great height: it is composed of twigs, rootlets, horse-hair, lichen, and a great deal of moss; inside the lining is of soft feathers. The eggs are four in number, pear-shaped, and of a uniform cream colour.

25. EMPIDONAX BIMACULATUS. (Arg. Orn. i. p. 155.)

April 11th. No. 108. Rare.

Legs dark brown; eye black; beak black; under mandible yellowish.

These birds arrived on April 11th, and departed next day, this being the only time I have noticed them here. They were exceedingly tame, and numbered some fifty individuals. They seemed to prefer the Paradise-trees, from which they constantly made short turns after passing insects.

[Along with this specimen, which Mr. Holland mistook for *Contopus brachytarsus*, came an example of *Serphophaga nigricans*, apparently obtained on the same occasion.—P. L. S.]

31. CIRCUS CINEREUS. (Arg. Orn. ii. p. 57.)

March 17th. No. 121. ♂. Rare.

Legs orange; eye reddish brown; beak brown.

This Hawk seems to have no fear of man, but follows him apparently in hopes that he will put up some small bird. It has a peculiar mode of alighting. When flying quietly along

it suddenly turns sharp round and drops into some mound or thistle-stalk, as if it had seen some prey, but I do not think it has; the action looks just like a stoop without an object.

32. *FALCO PEREGRINUS*. (Arg. Orn. ii. p. 67.)

Feb. 20th. No. 100. Peregrine Falcon. ♂. Rare.

Legs orange; nails black; beak horn-colour, base yellow; nostrils orange; eye black; cere orange; crop contained young bird.

Usually found in the same spot for days together either in trees or perched on a particular skull in camp, from whence it preys upon small birds. Here I have only observed one pair; the male I procured, but it had not finished its moult.

34. *HETERONETTA MELANOCEPHALA*. (Arg. Orn. ii. p. 130.)

April 14th. No. 113. Black-headed Duck. ♂. Very rare.

Legs brown; eyes black; beak bluish.

This is the only specimen of this Duck that I have yet observed here. It was found along with a flock of Teal in a reedy lagoon.

38. *EUDROMIAS MODESTA*. (Arg. Orn. ii. p. 171.)

April 30th. No. 119. Winter Plover. ♂. Fairly common.

Legs greenish; eye hazel; beak brown.

This specimen frequented the muddy edges of an arroyo, although flocks of the same species are usually found on the high camp.

39. *ÆGIALITIS FALKLANDICA*. (Arg. Orn. ii. p. 172.)

April 4th. No. 103. Patagonian Sandplover. ♀. Fairly common.

Legs brown; eye black; beak black.

Arrives along with the Sandpipers, but has not yet departed (July 2nd). Frequents the mud on the edges of the arroyos or lagoons. It seems a solitary bird, although the first I procured was in company with a flock of Bonaparte's Sandpipers.

40. *THINOCORUS RUMICIVORUS*. (Arg. Orn. ii. p. 176.)

April 27th. No. 118. Common Seed Snipe. ♂. Fairly common.

Legs yellow ; eye hazel ; beak straw-colour.

When these birds first arrive they are to be found on the roads sitting close when passed, and, because of their plumage, this is the safest way for concealment ; but later on, in June, they frequent the edges of lagoons.

42. *RHYNCHÆA SEMICOLLARIS*. (Arg. Orn. ii. p. 182.)

April 6th. No. 104. Painted Snipe. ♀. Fairly common, not migratory.

Legs greenish ; eyes black ; beak greenish, tip red.

Inhabits thick reedy swamps, and is found singly or in scattered flocks of six to eight individuals. The flight is very feeble and short.

43. *TRINGA MACULATA*. (Arg. Orn. ii. p. 183.)

April 8th. No. 106. Pectoral Sandpiper. ♀. Fairly common.

Legs yellow ; eye black ; beak black.

Usually found in marshy land with long water-weeds abounding, frequenting the same spot for weeks together. When approached they sit as close as a Snipe, until one or two have risen, when the whole flock, numbering some forty individuals, rise, and after circling once or twice, alight suddenly again in the same spot.

44. *TRINGA FUSCICOLLIS*. (Arg. Orn. ii. p. 185.)

April 3rd. No. 102. Bonaparte's Sandpiper. ♂. Common.

Legs dark brown ; eye black ; beak black.

Arrives here the middle of March, and departs the beginning of May. Found in variously sized flocks, frequenting marshy swamps or edges of lagoons, where it keeps running in and out of the water.

45. *RHYACOPHILUS SOLITARIUS*. (Arg. Orn. ii. p. 188.)

April 6th. No. 105. Solitary Sandpiper. ♂. Rare.

Legs yellow ; eye black ; beak black.

Found on the muddy edges of small pools in twos and threes, constantly on the move, running about in search of food.